



Arlington Council on Aging

Agenda

Date: Thursday January 21, 2021 Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Due to COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting will be conducted virtually via Zoom, following the rules set forth by the Governor's Executive Order on Remote Participation. These meetings are open to the public and all are welcome. Please call 781-316-3401 or e-mail KShah@town.arlington.ma.us for the link to join the virtual meeting which can be accessed by computer with internet access or by telephone for audio access only.

Kristine Shah, Executive Director

Michael Quinn, Chair

Marge Vanderhill, Secretary

The Council's primary responsibilities are to design, promote, and implement programs and services to address the needs of the community's elder population, and to coordinate existing services in the community.

1. Call to order
2. Citizen's Open Forum
3. Minutes of the December, 2020 meeting for approval
4. Executive Director's Report
5. Report of the Chair
6. Minuteman Senior Services Report: Marge Vanderhill
7. ASA Liaison Report
8. Old Business
 - a. 2 new Board members joining once Select Board approves
9. New Business
10. Other Community Announcements
11. Adjourn - **Next meeting: February 18, 2021**

Executive Director's Report

Kristine Shah

I. Updates on Programs/Services

- i. 75 Warm Wishes holiday gift bag were delivered by 36 volunteers through the month of December. Bags included personal items, gift items (thanks to a partnership with Maxima) and a \$10 grocery gift card.
- ii. 28 Chromebooks have been distributed to older adults in town. Hot spots will be distributed in February along with Chromebooks to individuals without internet connection. We are anticipating going through hot spots quickly and are applying for more funding to cover the monthly fees for an additional 20 hotspots.
- iii. Virtual programs continue to be well attended and are expanding. An 8 week "Brain and Balance" class is being added and our Intergenerational Book Club along with Yarn and Yarn groups are growing each month. We are also completing a puzzle project for the center's reopening.
- iv. 63 snow removal volunteers are matched with seniors in need and are ready to assist this winter.
- v. Our newly rejuvenated partnership with ACMi has begun and the COA participated in a news story on vaccine related scams last week. Monthly updates from the COA will begin next month along with consistent weekly content, in addition to recordings of our virtual programming
- vi. Our podiatry clinic is now a regular program at the office of Dr. Dan Seligman. Residents are thrilled that this is back on the monthly menu of services.
- vii. Our February Grab & Go event has been scheduled in partnership with Brightview and will feature a Valentine lunch along with cards created by students from the Thompson School. Future grab & go events will be scheduled in partnership with NEAT, sponsored by Arlington EATS, in an effort to distribute warm meals this winter.
- viii. Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief applications are due by January 31 and the committee is set to meet in early March to decide awards. We have received more applications than last year thanks to our social workers making calls to qualified individuals and assisting them with the applications.

b. Financial Updates

- i. Grant Application Updates
 1. \$20,000 from MAPC for Taxi/Livery transportation - *awaiting answer*
 2. \$10,000 from CHNA 17 – *did not receive*
 3. \$11,800 from Lahey/BIDMC Health for Transportation- *received*
 4. \$5,000 from Mount Auburn for Hot Spot Monthly Fees- *deadline Feb 8*
 5. \$4,000 from Mass Service Alliance for volunteer support- *deadline Feb 5*
- ii. CDBG FY22 applications were submitted by the deadline of 1/15. The COA Submitted proposals for Transportation (\$31,540), Volunteer Coordinator Position (\$52,922) and

Adult Day Health scholarships (\$6,000). I will be presenting a midyear update at the Select Board meeting on January 25 and also reviewing these 3 applications.

iii. Capital Campaign

1. A small ask was made at the end of December and over \$16,000 was received toward the capital campaign.
2. We will be combining a construction update and fundraising ask through a small mailing in the spring to support the capital campaign. Ted Trevens from DSA will be assisting with this project.

c. **Other**

- i. Our first Dementia Friendly Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for 1/28 and two reps from MCOA will be joining us along with our 4 board members.
- ii. AARP has extended our deadline for receiving our Age Friendly action plan until June. There is a model we can follow to submit one for both Age and Dementia Friendly programs at the same time so we will be exploring that.
- iii. At this point in time, AARP is not offering tax appointments for this year. We are keeping a log of residents who rely on this service each year and plan to update them in a few months on the status of our assistance offerings at that point.
- iv. COA Staff are a large part in supporting town COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics. First Responder clinics took place last week and vaccine has been ordered for AHA building residents and home care workers. We are assisting the Board of Health in answering and returning phone calls and requests from the community regarding vaccine updates. If you are interested in volunteering at any upcoming vaccine clinics, please reach out to me.